

# COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

July 2003

## From Fish Tacos to Fried Twinkies, Keeping Fair Food Safe

The San Diego County Fair is no joy ride to the Department of Environmental Health's restaurant inspectors — they know that the health of fairgoers may depend on how well they do their jobs.

Besides, the inspectors eat at the fair, too.

Each year, more than a million people pass through the fair's turnstiles, and many head straight for the food booths. It's hard to resist — vendors hawk everything from tangy barbecue ribs and chicken, to fried potatoes slathered in cheese, to cinnamon rolls dripping with icing and heaped with chopped walnuts.

"We can't take the chance that we'll have a major food-borne illness outbreak here," said Julayne Gath, a veteran of 18 years as a restaurant inspector with the County. "It's all about food safety, that's why we commit the resources that we do."

So far, so good. According to Gath, the fair has not had a confirmed outbreak of food-borne illness and DEH inspectors aim to keep it that way. More than 130 food vendors line the fair's broad avenues, and each one gets visited several times by DEH

inspectors during the fair's 21-day run.

A total of eight inspectors are assigned to fair duties, and at least one inspector is on duty at the fair each day.

One the fair's culinary mainstays is the Country Fair Cinnamon Rolls booth. Owner Eldon Dale oversees dozens of employees who knead, chop and bake their way through more than 25 tons of flour and hundreds of pounds of other ingredients during the three-week County Fair.

Dale and Gath exchanged banter one morning as Gath checked the temperature of the hot water used for all-important hand-washing by workers, and queried him



DEH Inspector Julayne Gath signs a food booth's permit.

about a stick of margarine sitting on a counter top — Dale insisted it had only been out for a few minutes.

"We just take every precaution. The last  
(continued on page 3)



### Harry Checks In

Principal Librarian Betty Waznis shows off the County Library's shipment of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" several days before the book's official debut on June 21. By the time the Library's 200 copies hit the shelves, more than 400 people had signed up for the waiting list. The County Library also ordered 41 audio books.

## Israel Trip Enlightens Emergency Planners

To hear Steve Wood and Gina Anderson tell it, Israel is a country striking for its natural beauty, historic sites dating back thousands of years, and the spiritual strength of its people.

It is also a place where nearly 800 people have died in terrorist attacks in the past three years.

The latter fact is what prompted Wood and Anderson, both with the County's Office of Emergency Medical Services, to visit Israel in recent months, Anderson last November and Wood in May.

The two County employees journeyed to Israel to observe firsthand how the Jewish nation prepares for and responds to terrorist attacks. What they learned may save lives right here in San Diego County.

"What the eye sees, the mind believes,"



Steve Wood and Gina Anderson

said Wood of the lessons he and Anderson learned on their trip.

Anderson traveled with a colleague from San Francisco and met with representatives  
(continued on page 3)

## NewsBriefs

### Awards and More Awards

The results from the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards are in, and the County made a strong showing. County programs were honored with a total of 27 awards, including three Best-in-Class honors: Reverse Auction, Purchasing and Contracting; Books by Mail, County Library; and Workers Compensation Medical Cost Management, Risk Management. For a complete listing of the NACo achievement awards, check out [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org), under "Awards." In a separate awards program, General Services received an honorable mention from the American Planning Association for development of the San Pasqual Academy master plan.

### What's in a NAME?

The County Medical Examiner's Office recently won renewed accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners, or NAME. The prestigious accreditation reaffirms the office's status as one of the best-run medical examiner/coroner offices in the nation. Only 41 jurisdictions in the United States – serving 25 percent of the U.S. population – have medical examiner/coroner offices accredited by NAME. The accreditation increases public confidence in the office, and helps it recruit and retain skilled professionals.

### Joy of Reading

When she's not helping children through her job as an adoption recruiter with the County's Health and Human Services Agency, Sonara Carter-Barber has another way of giving kids a boost – she runs an annual reading program at a South Park school. "Men's Reading Morning" has become a staple at the McGill School of Success. This spring, dozens of men from all walks of life – doctors, lawyers, judges, even a media executive – read to children at the school. It's all about providing positive role models for the kids and showing them what they can achieve, according to Carter-Barber.

### Disease Busters

The Department of Environmental Health teamed up with the San Diego County Fair to create an interactive exhibit about preventing the spread of West Nile Virus and other diseases. The exhibit was housed in the Small Animals and Pets Barn during the run of this year's San Diego County Fair (June 13-July 6). Information was provided to help residents protect themselves, their livestock and crops from West Nile and other diseases, including Exotic Newcastle disease and Pierce's disease. Information also was provided on pests such as the Mexican fruit fly, the red imported fire ant and Africanized honey bees.



## In Walt's Words

### Hot Time for Summer Programs

While many people enjoy their summer vacations on the beach or reading the latest Harry Potter novel, County employees are hard at work. And summertime means special programs carried out by many different County departments.

From the Farm and Home Advisor to Animal Services, many departments have summer programs valued by County residents, which meet our strategic plan goals of focusing on Kids, the Environment and Safe and Livable Communities.

I'd like to share a few examples with you, and apologize for worthy programs that may have been left out.

Swimming is one of the most popular summer-related activities, and the County's Department of Environmental Health is right there when it comes to pool safety. The department regularly inspects the more than 6,300 public pools and spas in our County, whether they are located in apartment complexes, hotels, parks or health clubs. The goal is to prevent injuries and illnesses to those who use these public pools.

Speaking of Environmental Health, the department also makes a big push this time of year to educate the public about food safety at picnics and barbecues. That way, germs that can make people sick won't end up as uninvited guests.

The County Library offers a wide variety of programs all summer long for children, teens and adults. Each branch has its own schedule of events (which can be found at [www.sdcl.org/calendar.html](http://www.sdcl.org/calendar.html)) and systemwide activities include a puppet show along with science and animal-themed programs.

When it comes to animals, the County has that covered in another way as well – this year, Animal Services is offering special incentives to those who want to adopt a cat or a kitten. Summer is a time when feline birth rates soar, and County residents can take advantage of the "It's Better with a Buddy" program, by adopting a second kitten at half price, when the first kitten is adopted at the normal fee.

Other great programs include the Farm and Home Advisor's 4H Youth Development Program, in which volunteers are trained to work with young people in scientific and agricultural efforts; and Cool Zone, under the auspices of Aging and Independence Services. This program urges older adults to visit designated "cool" spots during the hot summer months. Agriculture, Weights and Measures typically brings on additional staff for its pest detection program during the summer, because warmer weather translates into increased insect activity.

As you can see, the County gets busy in summer, and it's all to provide the best possible services to County residents. Thanks for all you do, and if I see you at the beach, make sure you're wearing sunscreen!

*Walt*

Walt Ekard  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Israel

(continued from page 1)

of Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical response agency. She observed a realistic disaster drill that simulated a chemical attack on a train. She also visited hospitals and clinics, and toured the Gaza Strip.

Wood also sat in on a disaster drill during his trip, organized by a nonprofit foundation focused on homeland security called the Project Interchange Foundation.

His group, which included law enforcement, doctors and technical experts, met with a number of high-ranking security officials in Israel.

Both said they were struck by the level of cooperation among Israeli government workers and civilians during a disaster. When an attack occurs, Wood said, "The entire world responds."

Emergency workers in Israel are aided by thousands of dedicated volunteers, and everyone is expected to pitch in.

For example, hospitals are equipped with large, secure daycare centers where doctors and nurses can safely leave their children while caring for the wounded from a terrorist attack. Trailers full of surgical equipment are ready to go to create extra surgical centers in hospital cafeterias.

Israelis are aware of the potential danger they face, but they also try to live life as normally as possible. For example, when a business is targeted in a suicide attack, the proprietors clean up and reopen as soon as possible, sometimes in a matter of hours.

Wood said he visited a famous bar and grill in Tel Aviv that had been bombed only three weeks before. He also attended a reunion of people injured in the blast. "There were no tears, a lot of hugs, a lot of high fives," he said.

Anderson also visited a café that had been bombed. "You go there today and it was just like it had never been bombed," she said. The Israelis are determined not to give the terrorists the satisfaction of seeing ordinary life disrupted.

Anderson said she took a number of lessons from her visit. Among them was the observation of how quickly the injured are removed from the site of an attack, in contrast to the way things are done in the U.S., where entry, triage and treatment are done much more methodically. She said she also learned by observing smallpox vaccinations, which was useful when the County began its own vaccination program a few months later.

These lessons can be applied not only in the event of a terrorist attack, but in any type of disaster, including earthquakes or fires, Wood said.

"We both came back different people than when we left," Wood said. "I have a new respect for life - L'chaim (to life)."

## [ Ver•ba•tim ]

### Letters from satisfied customers served by County employees.

**Grace Smith** and **Brian Salmon** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) were thanked for helping a woman correct an error on her husband's death certificate.

"The prompt, efficient way the matter was handled; the warm, caring attitude... not only assured me that the county still goes that extra step; but, made me proud to be a retired county employee."

**Stephanie Gaines** and **Curt Gonzales** (Planning and Land Use) received praise for helping a County resident learn about General Plan 2020, and how it would affect his community of Pala/Pauma.

"I hope you can see my appreciation by me taking the time out of my busy schedule to write you a lengthy letter on the service I received last week. I will from now on feel differently about the service I receive from your office because of my treatment from Stephanie and Curt."

**Sherry Marcue** (Probation) was praised for her work ethic and "in-court" work by a Deputy Alternate Public Defender.

"Over the past 12 months, I have worked daily with Ms. Marcue and have come to respect her judgment, honesty and integrity."

**Steven Lamoureux** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was singled out for his assistance in a matter related to property records.

"The question of square footage became an issue and Mr. Lamoureux found a discrepancy and rectified it."

**Monique Evans** (Probation) was thanked by a client's mother for her sound advice and genuine concern.

"Officer Evans was so great. The instruction that I was given by her completely turned my devastation into hope. My daughter is now back in school and doing 100% better. My hat goes off to her and I am so thankful. She has truly been a blessing to me and my daughter."

**Mike Dorsey** (Environmental Health) earned kudos from a representative of the auto repair industry for his work on an environmental issue.

"I am impressed with your diligence into making DEH a viable and cost-efficient organization. Being in business has taught me the value of running an efficient organization and I am pleased to see your department embracing those values."

Check out the online version of County News for more Verbatim.

## Fair Food

(continued from page 1)

thing I want is for someone to get ill," said Dale.

The inspectors also check the temperature of refrigerated and heated foods, to make sure they are maintained at the optimum levels to prevent harmful bacteria from flourishing.

Another no-no is keeping raw meat, poultry or fish near fruits or vegetables, which could lead to cross-contamination. Gath found just that situation when inspecting the walk-in refrigerator of one of the fair's

popular barbecue stands. Crates of raw chicken were stacked next to cartons of lettuce and tomatoes. If bacteria from the chicken contaminate the produce, it could be passed along to diners because the vegetables are not cooked before they are served, unlike the poultry.

"That's a high-risk behavior. That's how salmonella happens," Gath said.

At her inspections, Gath gave a couple of verbal warnings, but signed the permits of both the cinnamon roll and barbecue booths.

Gath's own favorite? She goes for the barbecue.



## Will The Real Ben Franklin Please Step Forward?

County employees got an eye-opening lesson last month on how to tell the difference between cold cash and bogus bills.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector's office hosted a class on counterfeit awareness for County employees. The session was a big success, with 79 people packing a conference room in the CAC tower. The class was conducted by Special Agent Richard La Tulip of the U.S. Secret Service.

"We think a better educated workforce on this issue will have a benefit to the bottom line of the County," said Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister.

McAllister said he plans to hold similar classes once or twice a year, with the next session likely to be held in January.

At the June 12 class, employees got tips for how to spot funny money, and what to do if they do come across a counterfeit bill.

Employees had a chance to feel both a real bill and a counterfeit note and compare the textures of the two. They were also advised that if they suspect a bill is bogus, they should compare it to a real bill and look for differences.

If you do suspect an attempt to pass a counterfeit bill, you can call the Secret Service at (619) 557-5640 for more information. Another source of information is the agency's Web site at [www.secretservice.gov](http://www.secretservice.gov).

## NEWSMakers NEWSMakers

**George Brewster, Sr.** Deputy County Counsel, was recently given an award by the Lawyers Club of San Diego for his outstanding service to that organization. Brewster received the Belva Lockwood Award at the Lawyers Club 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner on May 19.

**Ray Aragon** of the Public Defenders Office was elected to a seat on the State Bar Board of Governors. Aragon

has been with the Public Defenders Office for 14 years.

**David Cranford** has been named acting chief of the Probation Department, and **Nancy Rusk** has been named acting assistant chief. Cranford, who previously served as assistant chief, succeeds retiring Chief Probation Officer **Alan Crogan**.

Cranford and Rusk will hold their temporary posts until a new chief is appointed.



Don Hickox, left, and the cast of "Cotton Patch Gospel"

## Fiddling Around Pays Off for County Worker

Don Hickox was a student at San Diego State University when, on a whim, he swapped his surfboard for a fiddle.

Three decades later, the fiddle has become a mainstay in Hickox's life. As for surfing, well, he gave it up.

It's just as well, because his schedule is fully booked between his day job as a video production specialist for the County Television Network and his burgeoning musical career. His band, the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Buskers, is starring in a musical play called "Cotton Patch Gospel," a production of Coronado's Lamb's Players Theatre.

Hickox says performing in the play is quite different than the band's normal gigs at bars, coffeehouses and an outdoor farmer's market.

"It's an extra treat because we've got a very large, well-behaved audience that listens to every word and every note," Hickox said.

"Cotton Patch Gospel" loosely follows the story of Jesus Christ as told in the Gospels of Matthew and John, with a number of contemporary twists. The play is

set in Gainesville, Ga., and its folksy music was written by the late Harry Chapin.

The play allows Hickox to do what he loves best: play the fiddle for an appreciative audience.

The project also comes at a time of personal trial — recently, his father died of cancer.

"It's very uplifting spiritually for me to do this play. It sort of lifts my soul a little bit," he said.

Hickox has worked for the County for 31 years, mostly in video production. His work has earned him Emmy and ACE (Award of Cable Excellence) awards.

He also has another band, the Shamrockers, made up of current and former County employees, and has played at many retirement parties for County workers.

As for his own retirement, he's thought about it, but has no immediate plans.

"But when I do, you can bet playing the fiddle will be a big part of it," he said.

"Cotton Patch Gospel" plays at Lamb's Players Theatre through July 26.

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego.

### Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1  
Dianne Jacob, District 2  
Pam Slater, District 3  
Ron Roberts, District 4  
Bill Horn, District 5

**Chief Administrative Officer**  
Walter F. Ekard

This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Joe Tash, Editor

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Volume 25, No. 7 July 2003

# COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

## Service Awards

Congratulations to County employees reaching the following milestones in July:

### 40 years

Gary J. Hartpence (Dept. of Public Works)

Charles W. McGregor (Health & Human Services)

### 30 years

James T. Keenan III (Sheriff)

Clyde R. Kodadek (Sheriff)

James K. McKenna (Sheriff)

Terry J. Wisniewski (Sheriff)

Joseph C. Cibit Jr. (Dept. of Public Defender)

Rita L. Anaya (Probation Dept)

Lynn E. Parker (Agriculture Weights/Measures)

Laslie Bracy (Dept. of Public Works)

Harry L. Chertkow (Dept. of Environmental Health) Virginia L. Doughton (Health & Human Services)

Christine L. Garcia (Health & Human Services)

Ronalyn Echevarria (Superior Court)

Michael R. Lake (Air Pollution Control)

### 25 years

Estalita D. Jones (DGS-FAC Mgmt ISF)

### 20 years

Theodore J. Elbik (Sheriff)

Angelita V. Flaton (Sheriff)

Suzanne L. Hauser (Sheriff)

Christopher R. Hinshaw (Sheriff)

Bolitha J. Laws (Sheriff)

Maria E. Ramirez (Sheriff)

Tracey A. Whitmer (Sheriff)

Jacqueline Moriel (District Attorney)

Kathleen Ann Oconnell (District Attorney)

Victoria A. Bookhammer (Health & Human Services)

Josefina V. Bularan (Health & Human Services)

## In Memoriam

Durward A. Annis (General Services)

Elizabeth Bacon (HHSA)

Frank R. Boudrou (Superior Court)

Gerald A. Dow (Purchasing)

Virginia C. Harris (Library)

Hellen R. Harry (County Clerk)

Gerry M. Hodges (Probation)

Gregg A. Hoffman (Sheriff)

Laila Grace Lopez (Hospital)

Mary Ann Maddox (Social Services)

5/09

4/22

4/20

3/21

4/11

5/09

5/18

4/25

5/04

5/12

Jerry Mann (Registrar of Voters)

Jeanne Marra (Social Services)

Chester Merrill (Probation)

Janet Morgan (Municipal Court)

Ardis Pumala (Education)

Paul G. Rydquist (Health)

Ruth E. Savage (N/A)

Delano G. Tiffin (Sheriff)

Howard W. Vogel (DMI)

5/08

5/14

4/16

5/10

4/22

5/07

5/13

5/21

3/12

*County News Extra* includes expanded information about and for County employees. If you have something you'd like considered for either *County News* or *County News Extra*, please contact the newsletter editor at (619) 595-4627 or e-mail at [countynews@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:countynews@sdcounty.ca.gov). Items can also be faxed to (619) 595-4664 or mailed to MSA-359, Attn: *County News*.

## Retirements

The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports the following employees recently retired:

Jackie J. Aiello (HHSA)	Gerard Herrman (HHSA)	Dennis W. Peterson (Sheriff)
Alfred A. Albers (County Counsel)	Marsha J. Hickey (Marshall)	Dam V. Pham (HHSA)
Craig Anderson (Housing Department)	Tinh Hoang (HHSA)	Leslie Phillips (Board of Education)
Alfredo S. Angeles (HHSA)	William D. Holman (District Attorney)	Bruce Radabaugh (Probation)
Jose S. Apatan, Jr. (Sheriff)	Deborah M. Houghtaling (Superior Court)	Johnnie M. Ranoa (HHSA)
Eleanor Arnau (HHSA)	Barbara J. House (Superior Court)	Shirley A. Rathborn (District Attorney)
Joseph Arroyo (General Services)	Lisa Humphreys (HHSA)	Clarice D. Rerucha (HHSA)
Margaret I. Barnes (Superior Court)	Joyce Irving N/A (Former Spouse)	Inez M. Reynolds (HHSA)
Nancy A. Bartolomucci (HHSA)	Frederick Jessup N/A (Former Spouse)	Myrna B. Rivera (Animal Control)
Gary L. Basey (Sheriff)	Yvonne K. Jessup (HHSA)	Michael Rivers (General Services)
George G. Beall (District Attorney)	Belen Josue (HHSA)	John H. Robbins (HHSA)
Cynthia H. Bowers (Human Resources)	Pearl M. Kamoss (Sherriff)	Mark Robinson (Sheriff)
Joyce E. Bracey (HHSA)	Maureen Kane (HHSA)	Maria Rolon (HHSA)
Lita D. Buenavista (HHSA)	James D. Kennedy (Public Defender)	Donna M. Rose (HHSA)
Milard A. Campbell (Environmental Health)	Christine L. Kerbstat (Library)	Jennifer Rubalcava (District Attorney)
Leopoldo V. Caniya (Environmental Health)	Timothy J. Key (HHSA)	Nina Sagheb (HHSA)
Rosa E. Castro (Probation)	Sandra S. King (Superior Court)	Nancy R. Salisbury (District Attorney)
Son T. Chau (HHSA)	Rhonda Kirtz (Sheriff)	Charles S. Schellbach (Assessor/Recorder)
Simona B. Cherlin (Facilities Management)	Michael K. Kohn (Facilities Management)	Regenold Schumacher (Sheriff)
Louis M. Christiansen (Public Works)	Gene Krieser (Information Services)	Maria Schurr N/A (Former Spouse)
Jenni B. Cohen (HHSA)	Susan A. Kuehni (HHSA)	Lynda Scott (Treasurer/Tax Collector)
Geraldine Cota (Probation)	Charles O. Lane (Sheriff)	Arthur G. Seib (Probation)
Sharon M. Cox (HHSA)	Delia Lemay (HHSA)	Donald Shelton (Board of Education)
Norma I. Craig (Probation)	Judith S. Lipnick (HHSA)	Gary L. Shepard (Public Works)
Ann L. Davis (HHSA)	Kenneth Loud (Sheriff)	George C. Simmons (HHSA)
Joseph F. De Assis (Superior Court)	Robert J. Marlborough, Sr (Fleet Maintenance)	Glenna M. Simpson (Superior Court)
Richard K. Denhalter (Superior Court)	William E. P. McCastle (Public Defender)	Leonard L. Smith (Probation)
Warlito D. Deperalta (Sheriff)	Annette E. McDaniel (Superior Court)	Oksana Smith (HHSA)
John C. Diehl (Superior Court)	Shirley M. McRae (Child Support)	Sandra Smith (Chief Technology Office)
Janet Donnelly-Mauk (Superior Court)	Estelle N. Metz (HHSA)	Jeffery H. Staggs (Probation)
Francis H. Eaton (District Attorney)	Samuel Miranda III (Sheriff)	Sharon L. Stead (Superior Court)
Elinor Elphick (Sheriff)	Donald T. Monsay (HHSA)	Katherine N. Stewart (Auditor/Controller)
Anne M. Emerson (HHSA)	Carole L. Morales (HHSA)	Naomi Stok (Sheriff)
Jeanie Emigh (Probation)	Norma O. Moreno (HHSA)	Dolores M. Sullivan (Public Works)
Martin C. Erwin (Information Services)	Michele Morgan (Sheriff)	Ken J. Surdock (HHSA)
John Farris (Probation)	Wilburn Morris (Probation)	Rosemary N. (Cain) Sveine (Probation)
Pamela S. Fawcett (HHSA)	Thong C. Moua (HHSA)	Michael Tabler (Assessor/Recorder)
Anne P. Ford (Probation)	Mary Murphy (Assessor/Recorder)	Scott W. Thompson (Probation)
Marsha A. Freed (Superior Court)	Magdalena Y. Narciza (Assessor/Recorder)	Carmelita F. Tiong (HHSA)
Marielle A. Frenette (HHSA)	R. Neal (HHSA)	Robert J. Torres-Stanovik (HHSA)
Randall Fried (Probation)	Willie J. Neal (Probation)	Patricia A. Uppenkamp (HHSA)
George R. Gardner (Sheriff)	Mary J. Newcomer (Probation)	Marilyn L. Villalpando (HHSA)
John Gridley (Auditor/Controller)	Joann Norman (HHSA)	Peggy I. Vistercil (Sheriff)
Joel Gleghorn (HHSA)	Daniel Norr (Public Works)	John Vukotich (HHSA)
William L. Green (District Attorney)	Daniel Ornelas (Superior Court)	Katherine Waara (Probation)
Cesar E. Guerrero (Superior Court)	Rodger Overholser (District Attorney)	Carl E. Wallace (Public Works)
Ofelia Gutierrez (District Attorney)	Victor-See Patterson, Dr. (HHSA)	Lyndell D. Wallis (HHSA)
Michael Handman (Environmental Health)	Phylip J. Peltier (District Attorney)	Leslie M. Ward (County Counsel)
Nancee L. Hanson (Parks & Recreation)	Frank C. Peralta (Sheriff)	Susan L. Ward (Library)
		Barbara A. Watkins (HHSA)

(continued next page)

[ Ver•ba•tim ] *extra*

**Margie Cameron** (Probation) was thanked by a former ward for listening and getting involved and being fair.

"I'm doing good now and am off probation. I am looking forward to entering the military and just want to thank you once more for everything you did for me."

**Bobby Stephenson** (Probation) was thanked by a former ward for helping and guiding kids in the right direction.

"I think you did your best and if we listened to you we would be okay."

**Roy Pickering** (Public Works) was thanked for assistance he provided with the Valley Center Mexican fruit fly mapping project.

"Thank you for all of your assistance and expertise in producing the maps we've needed and especially in such a timely manner. You have saved us so many times! You are to be commended for your dedication and service."

**Annamarie Iraci** (HHSA, North Central Region) received the gratitude of a County resident for her assistance in a referral for her son.

"It truly is an invaluable service and my family benefited greatly from it."

**Donna Chase** (HHSA, North Central Region) received high

praise from a client she had referred to a study.

"This has been the best help I have received from anyone, ever."

**Wanda Lewis, Maxine Marcella** (Probation) received gratitude for assisting a client during a difficult period in her life.

"These ladies were professional in their duties while at the same time treating me with kindness and understanding."

**Lynda Messner** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was thanked for helping a man find property records he was looking for.

"If it were not for her (what I feel was divine intervention) I might still be searching those voluminous indexes today. Would you please advise her of my genuine appreciation for her assistance?"

**Rene Guerra** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was thanked for her prompt and courteous service to a man who was inquiring about the Prop. 60 reappraisal exclusion for seniors.

"Ms. Guerra provided the kind of service rarely seen these days. It is a credit to your leadership to have employees like her."

**Terry Meeks** (HHSA) was praised by a couple for her assistance during an adoption.

"She helped put our fears to rest, one by one. She made us feel important through her attentiveness and availability."

## Retirements

*(continued from previous page)*

Diane M. Webber (Public Works)

Alice Weed (HHSA)

Julieann White (HHSA)

Emmagean Whitley (HHSA)

Jean D. Williams (HHSA)

Maris K. Williams (Superior Court)

Stewart B. Witt (Assessor/Recorder)

Joan M. Woodruff N/A (Former Spouse)

William A. Zarp (HHSA)



## News Briefs Extra

### Three Rings of Thrills

The Do It Better By Suggestion, or DIBBS, program, is offering discount tickets to upcoming performances of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, which comes to the San Diego Sports Arena Aug. 7-9. The ticket deal is mail order only, and orders must be postmarked by July 31. For more information, contact your department's DIBBS coordinator, or the DIBBS office at (619) 578-5781.

### Prize Drawing

Organizers of the County Psychiatric Hospital Auxiliary Opportunity Drawing would like to thank County employees who purchased tickets. The winners were: Grand prize, Ron Hobgood; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, JoAnne McKinney; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, Karen Hogan. The donations generated by the drawing will help the auxiliary move forward with its plan to hire a person to help Psychiatric Hospital patients enroll in Medi-Cal.

### Maricopa County Models Probation Department Program

The County of San Diego and Probation's "Comprehensive Strategy for Youth, Family and Community" (regarding Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Offenders) is currently being studied by Maricopa County in Arizona. Maricopa is developing a regional crime prevention business plan and the Executive Summary of San Diego County Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Evaluation Report; October 2002 will be an appendix to it. This request from Maricopa is another example of other jurisdictions modeling or replicating Probation's successful efforts to prevent and reduce juvenile crime.

### Picnic in the Park

The San Diego County Latino Association invites all County employees to their annual Family Picnic to be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 27, at Sweetwater Regional Park. Free carne asada and sodas will be provided to all association members, non-members pay \$5. For more information visit [www.sdcla.com](http://www.sdcla.com) or call Gustavo Godoy at (858) 694-3029.

### Fundraising Luau

The San Diego Latino Social Work Network invites any County employee to join members and friends during a fundraising Luau on Saturday, July 26, from 4 to 8 p.m. Families are welcome, the event is all-you-can-eat and no-host bar. There will be raffle prizes, swimming and hula dancing for entertainment. Proceeds will benefit the SDLSWN and Casa Cornelia. This agency provides domestic violence services to families in need. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, and donations are accepted. Please contact Heidi Quiroz, (619) 336-5714, or Omar Lopez, (619) 336-5735 for information, or visit [www.sdlawn.freesevers.com](http://www.sdlawn.freesevers.com).



### Bowling 'em Over

*Congratulations are in order for the "251 Bowlers," who won the championship in the San Diego County Public Employees Bowling League. Members of the winning team, pictured from left to right, are Isaac Perez, Bryant Nguyen, Thom Cao, Ann Welch and Daniel Martinez. All five are student workers in the Health and Human Services Agency record library.*